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Letter from Anne Whitney, Malvern, England, 1871 June 10

Anne Whitney

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Malvern Exp. June 10-71

If you are surprised my friends & have
a letter written from this place - I am
more so & indebted from this place. The
truth is I was taken on board, & shouldered
ourselves & marched off grudgingly to my own self-
contempt. My enemy of last summer
did in fact - make its appearance again
in Venice & we have been having a fight
of it all the way. After being a week in
London & seeing no probability - but the extremely
depressing one of not getting any good out of
^{being there} ~~it~~ at all I & my wife took a resolution & came
off here with me. She wd. whether I wd.
or no. For I felt more than half inclined
to battle it out. My courage gave way
only when it became certain that what
was giving me most distress & discomfort
was - the Piles. As this last grows out of
the other trouble I knew that to attack
it homeopath? wd. be fruitless. for homop?
had failed to affect the drainage as you
know. Dr. Gally is a man of the highest
moral reputation - & not a bigot to the
water-system. He is known & consulted far
& wide - but is seeking to retire from practice
^{as a thing} ~~th.~~ He finds it difficult to do.
He has given a more intelligible & intelligent
diagnosis than I was expected to get from

anybody. He calls my trouble nervous
dizziness & says (what I supposed bef.)
that it is this wh. has produced the
other complaint. His treatment is wholly
for the former ^{& the latter} will pass away when
this is cured. He gives me also homeo-
poids. The treatment is very diff. from
that practised at home. I don't think
Dr. Gally ever uses it - to bring on catarrhs
crises or whatever that particular style
is called. He uses it solely ~~as an~~ ^{as an}
irrigator - & motion action to dormant
parts & leave nature to work it out. Of my
sitz baths (running sitz-water always cold) one
is 3 min. another 5 - & the longest 10. I take 3
walks ~~then~~ one after each & feel that I am
already better. Seeing that I cd. do nothing
in London - that Eng. & Scotland were lost
to me certainly, if I did not come here - it
seemed to me, that there wd. be less danger
of wholly throwing away my time if I used it in
an effort at recovery. It is possible now
that I may yet see & enjoy a few days in
London. For the rest I must give it up.
Addy went back yesterday P.M. & she
with the rest of her party will go after
a couple of weeks or so to Scotland. I
thought at first I might meet them on
the road & go too. But it is possible if
their journey is put off a little longer that
I can return to London. see the British
Museum - wh. is the one thing I could afford

to see - & go too. I shall talk with Gally about
it - if he wants me to stay here to the utmost.
I shall have only a look at London & let the
rest go. I wd rather have health when I get
home than all England.

Edward's letter came yesterday.
Thank him for the trouble taken, & all
the rest. I am exceedingly sorry that
we cannot go to Boston instead of N. Y.
I think you know of our passage being
taken on the Calabria. I have recd. this
P.M. a letter from Miss North, whom
perhaps I have not mentioned to you -
& who is going to America with her friend
Mrs. Skinner. They go by the Tarpole
the 13th. She urges me to put off going
till I go with them but I cannot spare
2 days more of sea. It takes but a
few days longer to go to N. Y. I saw
Miss North once in Rome & since
coming to London she has been full of
kindness & attention. I was to have
gone to spend a week with her in
town. She lives in Victoria St. near
the House of Parliament - of wh. her father
was a member for 30 years, & so there
is one Englishwoman for whom I have a
great regard. They were so very pleasant
things - 2 people to see thro. her & others!
but that's nothing in comparison with getting
locomotion again.

The Ladies are staying in London & Mary
Alcott. They spent long, both as before.
Miss Sarah E. is far from well - & both of
them are trying to repair losses & strain on the
war. Surely the women have had their half of
the burden Mary Alcott is taking lessons in
painting - bef. leaving home she had been sewing
& handsome living too - but she went to
seek herself profane in water - coloring -
has to pay a Guinea a lesson - Cost in Exp.
seems fearful on comparison with the
dear old Continent. - But Abby thinks
I need to go home to get my mind properly
balanced - perhaps so - I pay here 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
guineas a week board - fire in room 6d
a day - The weather has been bitterly cold
from the day of our arrival in London - That
we did not have a fire there owing to our
landlady having taken out her working - gown
or put on her ornamental one was perhaps
the the aggravation of a cold - I took then
work, has now happily disappeared. My
Baths attendant is to receive 6 shillings a
week & the Dr. I know not what - yet - but
his charges are not unreasonable. Believe
Malvern hills are within sight of the Welsh
Mts. but I have not yet climbed them for
a look - I am told by the people boarding
here that it is very pretty - very pretty - ~~When~~
~~one gets up~~ the look over the other side - I
believe the Eng. never get much further in
enthusiasm & passion than putting Malvern
itself is a village built round the side of
a high hill - road above road - & with a valley
of ununsuspected beauty meeting out on all
sides but one - far as the eye can see. Almost

every house is a picture - & a great por-
tion of the larger ones - strange to say -
are boarding houses. but so large some of
stone or brick. with beautiful grounds kept
with the utmost care - that you wd. never
dream you were anywhere but in a place
set apart for country seats. I can give you
no idea of it - & we have nothing like it at
home - ~~at~~ when one thinks how compactly
on the whole it hangs about the hills - &
yet every villa has its magnificent perpendicular
hedges lawns winding lanes. thick with
vines - & some of them parks & pretty lodges
covered with trailing green - & every where such
masses of foliage one wonders how it is all
got in the open! Since no more spears of
grass can grow on the side of a d.c. The beauty
& charm of the place of course adds its expense.
I found lodgings wd. be dearer than boarding &
Dr. G. sent me to this house wh. is near the
baths & at the same time that it is very desirable
on point of situation is also more reasonable
than others - My room is against the hill, but
still pleasant enough - & the boarders are
kindly & social. The Dr. lives about an 1/2
mile from here & I go to see him every 3 or 4 days.
He has no establishment.

Sunday 11th it is two weeks today since
we arrived in London - Yesterday was a trifle
warmer - I went out without my heavy blanket
cloak. A week ago there was a white frost
here - the peas - & the potato vines were nipped
& the Primrose had faded - Flax, Lamb

has gone home bef. this but the reflected
pleasure of her visit shines forward
even to this - You were mistaken dear
Leah, I was not disposed to make light
of Dr Goodrich's opinion. I was only
thinking how well he had hit upon my case,
or rather how glad I was there was a dis-
cerner that might help to explain matters.
I had always such a sense of nowhere &
everywhere in these ~~things~~ things. Edward's letter
makes the 3^d - I have not since coming to
London. It must be looking pretty now
about the land - but have the caterpillars
~~ever~~ ^{ever} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~known~~ ^{known} ~~before~~ ^{before}? I have not in the
last 4 years seen the least vestige of those
insects. The foliage everywhere - on Gurney
& Linn. is as rich & full - as if it never knew
anything of ravage. The road from London
to Malvern is quite pleasant - but nothing
remarkable - nothing like what I looked
for in Eng. But Belgium! oh that them
I might enlarge! It is a Paradise of beauty
& all earthly good. So rich - so fertile
it fairly oozes above & below with all
manner of fatness. From Cologne to Antwerp
milk & honey are up to the hubs of the wheels.
I cd. but think how Father & Cora whose
eyes and the charms with a green field
& a potato patch as evidence of good farming
w'd. gaze with astonishedapture on this
great garden Elysian. From Antwerp to
Brussels the country becomes more & more flat
till you come into the matter of fact

lands of Holland wh. offer little more than
reaches of moor - pasture with cattle feeding
& distracted windmills. One day last week
Henry Bridges took us out to Hampton Court
& short rail-road from London. When
there is great park of fine old trees & the
house built by Cardinal Wolsey for himself
but wh. he was polite or politic enough
to say when Einstein Dth Henry asked him
for whom he was building that place, "for
my Majesty, to be sure - & so it became a
royal domain & has continued so ever since
& is kept in nice order & used as a royal
allotment for the poor relations of her
Majesty. who here look out on beautiful
gardens fountains, groves & park & doubtless
congratulate themselves that their "Cith. matters
with sufficient "strenu" without any lay-
making sweat of their own. Mr. Bridges
made an admirable entertainer - treating
us at the clean little inn to a perfect little
dinner & bringing us home happy & cheery
in spite of the cold. O to love London! 3
groans for losing London! I was to see
Rob Browning if I wanted to - I was to see
any & all the pleasant people - but here's
the donkey & a clever thing it is - tho
I did burst out of the closet where I was
"catching" it into that when the nurse was
administering it - gasping "isn't that enough?"
My good Prosser can't recover from
that, she laughs at the faintest suggestion
- calls it my french leave. For the rule
is that the patient comes out when the nurse

who is turning the Dr's prescription by her
watch gives the word. But that was the
first time - the next I did better - & she
praised me to the ceiling. On Sunday, nobody
but Gully, Sam (old) gives baths & his or
his attendants only in the morning (there are
2 other hydropaths beside him here). So
in this AM, my woman bowed me with
the city - & then the all-over week after -
as usual - but for the rest of the day I
must go unwashed & I assure you I miss
it - it being now afternoon. I begin to
feel that I have been defrauded all
my life with out one wash a day - They
say it is great medicine for rheumatism
my beloved Sarah - & there is a kind golden-
haired woman here Mrs. Varley (her husband
laid the Atlantic Cable - is electrician of
the same) - a piece of solid sunshine to
look at who has been under treatment for
pretty much the same trouble as Mary N.
has I think - inward neuralgia who has
been raised to life by it. Several have told me
they were alive only thro' this treatment. The
most hopeless chronic cases are brought here
cases that were past any other cure. My chief
revelation is & promises to be a young man at
least not much in years - cultured & bright
as a jewel a perfect jokers in the some-
what "nice" lameness of the Eng. people about.
What brings him here with his handsome & healthy
physique I don't know - he is not Eng. but by birth
Greek. He & "Sunshine" will keep me from
mildew. If only I could walk! as I hope to however
People are always suggesting such ravishing trips!
to Beacon hill behind the line - but a long ways
up - to Camp hill - where are remains of a Roman
Camp. etc etc.

Mr Dr. has prescribed, not going to walking.
I have just returned from a walk over
the fields where one has the great view
all the way - "All things in order stored -
A haunt of ancient peace" - comes to the
mind. Very peaceful here - very quiet of
Lambeth - & not noisy at any time. A beau-
tiful old church - the abbey, called - is just
below us. I spend the intervals of water
in paying up arrears in correspondence.
I hope Mother & Father will accept with
equanimity - the hydropathic fact. I
know they don't believe in it. but I
think you must all agree it was about
the only thing remaining for me to do.
Monday Oct. 12th
I long to ride about these hills & see the country
beyond. My new friends here who keep
a dandy pony carriage say they want me
to take some drives with them - But at
present riding agrees with me less than
walking. Abby writes warning me against
the 2^d class cars. wh. she says almost
choke her on pieces going back. & were
worse than the German. We came up in
2^d class however & tho they were hard
& uncomfortable - we did not find them
so bad. There must be some diff. in the
rail or in the carriages of the same
class themselves. The dreadful wobbling
of the cars on ^{some of} the German roads is worse
than the worst conveyance. On the roads
we have travelled (by ^{in all} these seasons) I do

not remember such a time, so I
certainly shd. have done. In Germany
the 2^d class carriages are stuffed
a very comfortable ^{in that respect} & we have always
used them - here, they are made with
narrow ^{wooden} seats & straight-wooden backs
& the little strip of leather across the
seat & back only makes them clippier
without softening them so that when
they shake it is impossible to keep
one's seat. I think there some roads
where they are better than others -
from Liverpool to London I think
they were quite decent. But shd. like
to see those geniuses who used to talk
about Lord & Ladies riding 2^d cl. shd.
as soon think of seeing you get into one
of those cars attached sometimes to our
trains & wh. might be called 3^d class,
if there were a 2^d, & filled with Irish.
shd. like to know if it is wholly due
to bad springs - this rough & tumble motion
that we have sometimes - I shd. think
the wheels wd. need to be clamped to
the rails to keep them from being thrown
off. ~~It is~~ ^{It is} it must be for I don't think
the wealthy classes who can pay for better
springs wd. stand it. & the 1st class here prob-
ably (as in Germany) run smoothly -
But now for the mail.

And now out-bow trouble, please.
It perhaps sounds formidable that
shd. be at a water-cure in Melton.
but let me tell you it is more such
more so than what in the darkness
of a London house let my heart with
regret at my debilitation. Here all is
open air, cheerful - & I am sure of
accomplishing something, the best thing
if it be health. Already I can do without
pain what it wd. have cost me a day
on the bed to do there. Dr. G. is one of
the most sagacious men in Eng. & my confidence
in him is entire. & one great good I
have in view is the learning here how
to conduct myself hereafter -

Love to you all - & health & joy -
Perhaps Abby will be writing to you
in a few days. She spoke of it.

June 10 / 71 Malvern

The rails is ^{just} up them
off. I ~~thought~~ ^{thought} it must be for I don't think
the wealthy classes who can pay for better
roads wd stand it. & the 1st class here prob-
ably (as in Germany) run smoothly -
But now for the mail.